US Department of State

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HIGHLIGHTS



- President Bush extended his apologies to Prime Minister Maliki over the alleged use of a Koran for target practice by a US soldier in Iraq. (POLITICAL, page 4)
- Prime Minister Maliki offered amnesty to militiamen in Mosul willing to lay down their weapons within 10 days. (POLITICAL, page 7)
- Iraqi forces pushed peacefully into Sadr City May 21 to set up checkpoints and search for weapons. (SECURITY, page 10)
- Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh recently stated that Iraq is a large emerging market and the economy can be expected to take off very fast. (ECONOMIC, page 14)
- In a May 18 interview, Turkish special envoy to Iraq, Murat Ozcelik, is reported to have said that Turkey was taking steps to open soon a Consulate General in Basrah. (DIPLOMATIC, page 26)

POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation



CoR Continues Discussion on Elections Law:

On May 21, the Council of Representatives (CoR) continued discussion on the provincial election law. Several CoR members debated whether the law should include a quota for women, and if so, what that mechanism should be. Moreover, several members stressed the importance of allowing the Independent Higher Electoral Commission (IHEC) of Iraq to set an election date without interference from the Council of Ministers. Other members chastised IHEC for waiting until May to report a lack of funding.

Bush Apologizes to Iraqi Prime Minister over Shooting of Koran:

 On May 19, President George W. Bush apologized by phone to Iraqi Prime Minister (PM) Nuri al-Maliki over the alleged use of a Koran for target practice by a US soldier in Iraq. White House spokeswoman Dana Perino confirmed that the President discussed with Maliki the issue "of one of our soldiers having used a Koran absolutely inappropriately" and expressed regret over it. The soldier has already been removed from Iraq.

POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation

Maliki Assures Iraqi Christians of Better Security, Services, and Religious Freedom:

- PM Maliki received a delegation of mostly Christian representatives during his May 16 visit to Mosul. PM Maliki emphasized to them that Christians are an integral part of Iraq and threatened severe punishment for those who harm them. He also promised more economic development and services in the area, appealed for greater minority participation in the Iraqi armed forces, and stressed GOI support for religious freedom and the rule of law in Iraq.
- Separately, the GOI announced May 18 that an individual involved in the February kidnapping and death of Chaldean Catholic Archbishop Faraj Rahho has been sentenced to death.

Trial of Tariq Aziz and "Chemical Ali" Resumes:

• The trial of former senior Saddam Hussein-era official Tariq Aziz for his involvement in the 1992 executions of dozens of Baghdad merchants resumed May 20. Prosecutor Adnan Ali said Aziz and his co-defendants, including Ali Hassan al-Majid, known as "Chemical Ali," were responsible for the deaths of dozens of Baghdad merchants and urged the court "to issue the suitable punishment that will ease the hearts of widows and oppressed ones." In court, Aziz denied the allegations and said of the trial, "I know it is a plot of personal revenge." The trial began April 29 but was delayed because al-Majid was too sick to attend.

POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation



Speaker Nancy Pelosi Visits Iraq:

US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Iraq May 17 and 18.
 During her visit, Pelosi met with PM Maliki and her Iraqi counterpart, Council of Representative Speaker Mashhadani. Iraqi officials said the upcoming provincial elections and the security conditions in Iraq were the chief topics of discussion. PM Maliki's office said Pelosi promised that Washington "would stand by efforts to achieve security and stability and ensure national reconciliation in Iraq."

POLITICAL - Provincial

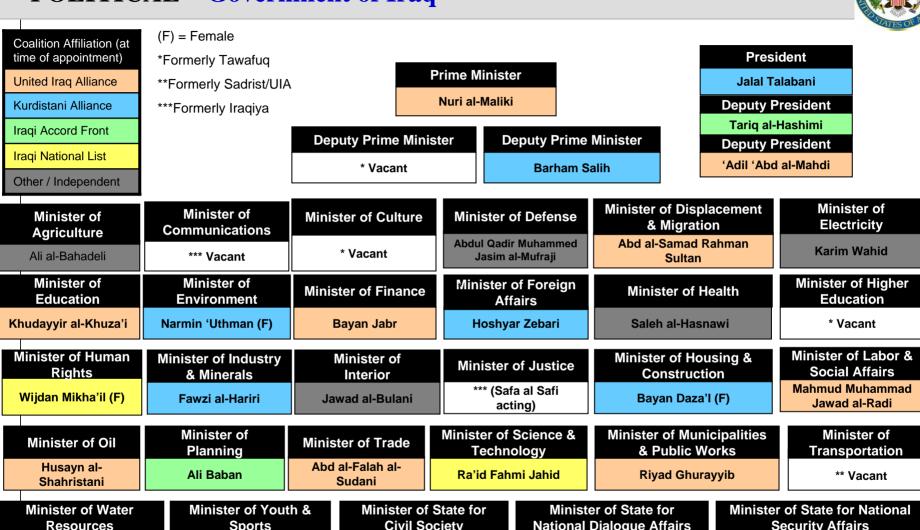


PM Maliki Offers Amnesty to Militants in Mosul:

• PM Maliki offered payment and amnesty from prosecution May 16 in Mosul to fighters who give up their weapons within 10 days. Many al-Qaida affiliated fighters are in Ninewa province after being pushed out of Baghdad and other areas of the country. "We have decided to grant amnesty to those who joined the armed groups on condition they hand over heavy and medium weapons to the security forces," Maliki said in a public statement. The amnesty is limited to "those who did not commit crimes against civilians or stain their hands with blood." Fighters who turn their weapons over to the government will be given an unspecified cash payment.

POLITICAL – Government of Iraq





Resources

'Abd al-Latif Rashid

Sports

Jasim Muhammad Ja'far

Civil Society

* (Wiidan Mikha'il Acting) (F)

National Dialogue Affairs

Akram al-Hakim

Minister of State for

Security Affairs

Shirwan al-Waili

Minister of State for **Foreign Affairs**

* Vacant

Minister of State for **Governorates Affairs**

Sa'd Hashim

Minister of State for **Tourism and Antiquities** ** Vacant

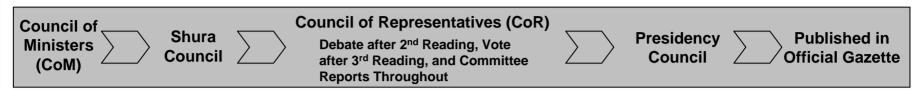
Women's Affairs ** (Narmeen Othman Acting) Minister of State for CoR **Affairs**

Safa al-Safi

POLITICAL – Key Legislation and Refugee Update



Legislative Process



Provincial Elections The CoR is currently considering reviewing the law, which will set the

legal basis and structure of provincial elections.

Hydrocarbons Package The level of control allocated to the central government in the July 2007 draft

version of the Framework Law (currently in CoR Committee) is the key point of disagreement; there may be more progress on the Revenue Management

Law, currently with the Shura Council, in the coming months.

Amnesty Law PASSED: CoR approved the law on February 13; the law was signed by the

Presidency Council February 26 and was implemented March 2.

Pensions Amendment PASSED: Published in the Official Gazette December 2007.

De-Ba'athification PASSED: Approved by default by the Presidency Council February 2008.

Reform Published in the Official Gazette in mid-February.

Provincial Powers PASSED: CoR approved the law on February 13; the law was vetoed by the

Presidency Council February 26. The veto was rescinded on March 19, allowing

the law to take effect.

Refugee Update

Refugees in the region: 2-2.4 million

Internally displaced persons in Iraq: 2.2-2.4 million

Total number of Iraqi refugees admitted to the U.S. during to date in FY07-FY08: 4,885

SECURITY - Situation Update



Iraqi Forces Push Peacefully into Sadr City:

Iraqi troops entered the Sadr City area of Baghdad May 21 in a long-awaited operation to reclaim the neighborhood. The operation did not involve Coalition ground forces. The Iraqi units met with little resistance from Mahdi Army members or Special Groups as they set up checkpoints and took up positions near Muqtada al-Sadr's political headquarters in what has been dubbed "Operation Peace." None of Sadr's militiamen were visible in the streets. The Iraqi Army will conduct searches for weapons in the coming days. Sadr City residents are required to hand over weapons and cooperate with searches.

SECURITY - Situation Update



<u>Iraqi Operation in Mosul Continues</u>:

- MNF-I spokesman MG Kevin Bergner stated that the initial phase of the Mosul effort "has featured intensified operations by the Iraqi Security Forces and it is building on the operations that have been under way for the past several weeks. These Iraqiplanned, Iraqi-led operations have established bases and checkpoints in Mosul and have featured numerous raids on al-Qaida in Iraq cells that are using indiscriminate violence to intimidate, assassinate and wound innocent people in the city."
- Unlike similar operations in Baghdad and Basrah, the Mosul offensive had until
 recently been nearly free of fighting. On May 19, however, insurgents ambushed a
 vehicle of Iraqi police recruits, killing all 11 passengers. The attack had the
 hallmarks of al-Qaida in Iraq (AQI) and could be AQI's retaliation for the Mosul
 operation. The US military has described Mosul as AQI's last urban stronghold. As
 part of the Mosul operation, Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki has offered amnesty to
 members of armed groups who surrender their weapons.

SECURITY – Security Transition



Ninth Iraqi Army Medics Class Graduates:

• The ninth class of Iraqi Army medics graduated from the Iraqi Army Trauma Training Center May 13. The students experience real-world situations and hands-on learning to prepare them for the rigors of battlefield care. Students learned about common and uncommon trauma and wounds, burns, airway control, amputations, intravenous fluid, and electrolyte replacement. The recent graduates will work in various medical units of the Ministry of Defense.

Sons of Iraq Graduate Police Training in Kirkuk:

• More than 300 Sons of Iraq graduated from Iraqi Police training May 15 at the Kirkuk Police Academy. The graduates are residents of Hawijah district, about 60 miles southwest of Kirkuk city and once the home to the region's worst violence against Iraqi civilians and security forces. Graduates will return to fill vacant spots in the Hawijah police district in order to capitalize on security gains that have resulted in an 80% drop in violent attacks since the inception of the Sons of Iraq program.

New Iraqi Police Graduate from Regional Training Academy:

On May 16, 413 Iraqis graduated from the Multi-National Division Regional
Training Academy in Ashraf, Diyala province. The four-week course prepared the
recruits to join the ranks of Iraqi Police. Currently, there are more than 10,000
Iraqis applying to join the force.

SECURITY - Iraqi Security Forces



Iraq Security Forces as of March 31, 2008 ^a							
	Current Authorized	Assigned Personnel	Total Trained Personnel to				
Component	Personnel ^b	С	date ^d				
Ministry of Interior (MoI) Forces ^e							
Iraqi Police Service f	288,001	291,497	171,312				
National Police ^g	33,670	37,685	45,019				
Border Enforcement	38,205	40,329	28,978				
Total Mol	359,876	369,511	245,309				
Ministry of Defense (MoD) Forces ⁿ							
Army	154,757	165,437	193,159				
Support Forces	15,583	18,275	20,569				
Air Force	2,907	1,409	1,501				
Navy	1,893	1,288	1,415				
Total MoD	175,140	186,409	216,644				
Counter Terrorism Bureau							
Special Operations	4,733	3,477	3,709				
Total Iraqi Security Forces	539,749	559,397	465,662				

**The decrease in authorized MoD forces from the April 30 report reflects a change in a temporary GOI policy to increase front line units to 120% of authorized end strength to maintain present-for-duty totals at 100% while soldiers took leave. This change will make ISF reporting consistent with standard military personnel accounting practices in other countries and provide a clearer representation of ISF manning levels.

- a Numbers do not include ministry staffs.
- b Numbers reflect Government of Iraq (GOI) authorizations.
- c Numbers are based upon GOI payroll data and do not reflect present for duty totals.
- d Numbers reflect assigned personnel that have received training.
- e Numbers reflect total ISF personnel trained to date, some of which are no longer assigned due to casualties, AWOL, and normal separation.
- f Mol strength does not reflect investigative and administrative forces, the Mol HQ, Mol Forensics, Dignitary Protection, or contracted guards.
- g Mol Police Support Unit, Provincial Security Force, and Emergency Response Unit personnel are part of the Iraqi Police Service and does not include other Ministry FPS.
- h MoD strength is derived from Modified Tables of Organization and Equipment (MTOEs).

ECONOMIC – Economic & Government Capacity Update



Second Iraq Business and Investment Conference Held:

• Egypt's Prime Minister Nazif and Iraq's Vice President Abdul Mahdi co-hosted the Second Iraq Business and Investment Conference (IBIC) in Cairo May 14-16, 2008. Attended by senior GOI officials, including the Minister of Finance, Minister of Industry and Minerals, the Governor of the Central Bank, and the Chairman of the National Investment Commission, the conference provided the opportunity for officials to present a pro-investment policy while meeting with interested regional and international investors. Whereas the first IBIC focused on southern Iraq, the second IBIC focused on central Iraq. Approximately 400 attendees participated. Breakout sessions showcased developments and opportunities in areas such as housing, construction, agriculture, and tourism.

<u>DPM Saleh: Iraq Is Large Emerging Market:</u>

• Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh recently stated that Iraq is a large emerging market and the economy can be expected to take off very fast. Saleh attended the World Economic Forum on the Middle East in Egypt and stated, "There is nothing in Iraq that doesn't require investment, but the state cannot solve it and so we look seriously to the private sector." According to Saleh, Iraq's oil reserves may exceed 350 billion barrels of oil, with projected revenue for 2008 at \$70 billion. Although Saleh was optimistic about the future of Iraq's economy and especially the oil sector, he was less optimistic about the hydrocarbon law passing soon.

ECONOMIC – Economic & Government Capacity Update



<u>Iraq Monetary Policy Questioned</u>:

• Abdel Hussein al-Anbaki, Prime Minister Maliki's economic advisor, recently commented that the Central Bank of Iraq (CBI) should abandon its current monetary policy. At the "Significance of Economic and Financial Reforms to Rebuilding Iraq" symposium, al-Anbaki said, "The tight measures taken by the Central Bank as to the Iraqi currency value and attempts to raise its exchange rate against the US dollar would damage the Iraqi economy as a whole." The CBI has employed a tight monetary policy since late 2006 to combat high inflation. Al-Anbaki included these comments in a paper on the subject that he presented at the symposium; in the paper, he proposed that the CBI's attempts to raise the value of the dinar have increased the deficit and has negatively affected the value of oil revenues in Iraqi dinars. Ahmed Burihi, the CBI Deputy Governor, defended the Bank's policies, saying that increased government spending was the main cause of inflation in Iraq.

KRG Passes 2008 Budget:

• The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) recently passed its 2008 budget. KRG Minister of Planning Othman Shwani said that \$2.4 billion from the KRG's 2008 budget of \$6.4 billion will be allocated for investment. This will provide funds to complete 766 projects started in previous years, start 688 new projects proposed by KRG ministries, and implement 677 projects in the Irbil, Sulaymaniyah, and Dohuk provinces. Each province will have a share in the remaining budget according to their needs.

ECONOMIC - Oil



Crude Oil Update:

Price averages in world markets closed with the following prices:

Basrah Light at \$114.23/barrel

Dated Brent at \$122.154/barrel

WTI Cushing at \$124.932/barrel

Oman/Dubai at \$119.85/barrel

2008: \$25.5 Billion (ytd)

Revenue estimates:

2006: \$31.3 Billion 2007: \$41.0 Billion

ECONOMIC – Essential Services



Taji Water Treatment Facility Recovery:

• Three years after a car bomb destroyed much of its infrastructure, the Karkh Water Treatment Plant is nearing the end of its renovation. The water plant, which is located in Taji just northwest of Baghdad, supplies approximately 1.3 million liters of potable water per day for an estimated four million residents. The attack destroyed the facility's circuitry, generators and air-conditioning systems. As a result, the plant has been unable to effectively supply water since 2005 but will soon be operating at an improved capacity following work by the GOI and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Electricity Ministry to Use Helicopters:

 In order to gain faster access for routine infrastructure repairs and emergency situations, the Ministry of Electricity will purchase helicopters. According to Al Dawa newspaper, Minister of Electricity Karim Hasan has reviewed helicopter models with the Iraqi Air Force. The Ministry hopes that use of these helicopters will improve security as well as technician response time.

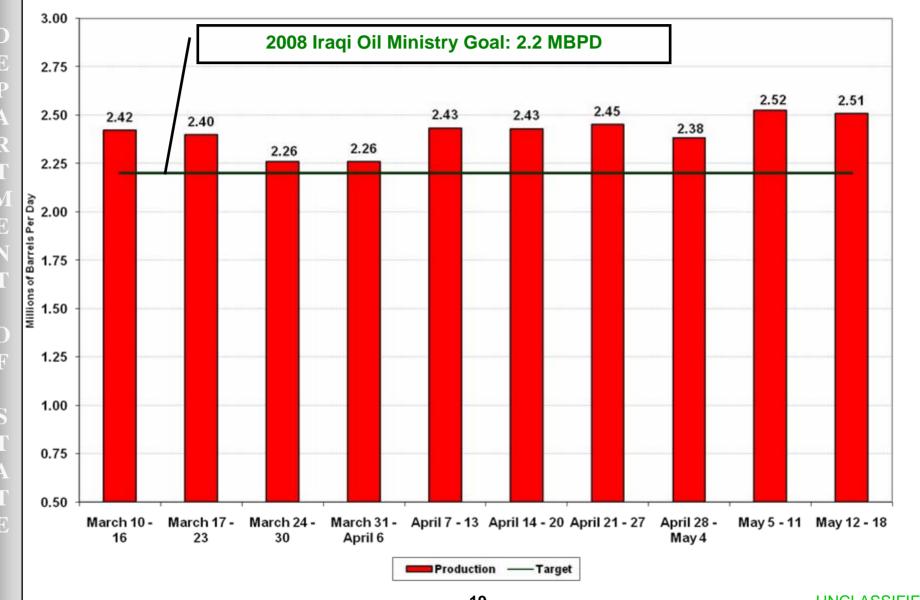
ECONOMIC – Essential Services

<u>Progress on Najaf Airport Construction</u>:

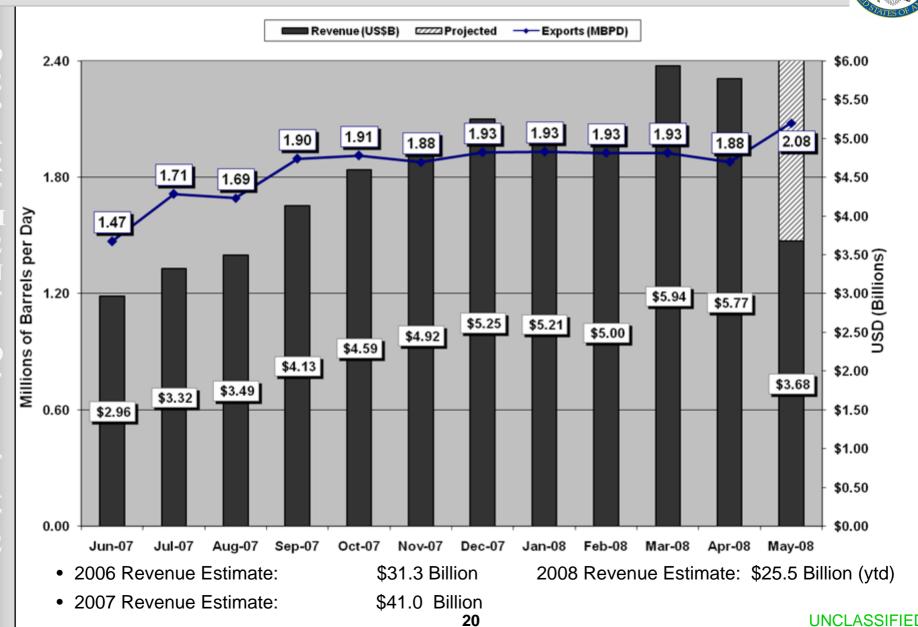
 Representatives and officials from Najaf and Baghdad continue to work with representatives of the USG and engineers from Stanley Consultants on the construction timeline of the Najaf Airport. Before opening, the airport must be certified by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), which will require implementation of required security measures. Najaf authorities hope to have this accomplished in time for an August opening. The opening of this airport would greatly benefit the Najaf community as well as the larger Shia community by facilitating access to Shia Islam's most important sites.

ECONOMIC – Crude Oil Production



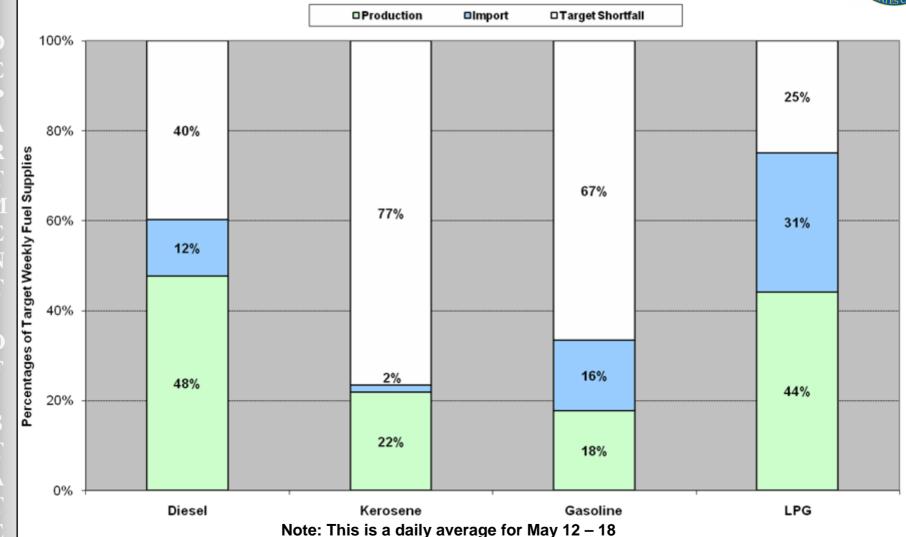


ECONOMIC – Crude Oil Export



ECONOMIC – Total Critical Refined Product Supplies





Diesel: 14.7 ML supply of 24.5 ML target

• Kerosene: 3.4 ML supply of 14.6 ML target

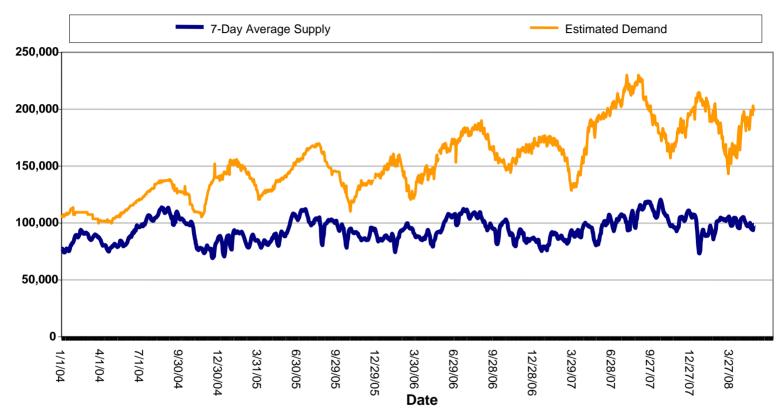
• Gasoline: 9.0 ML supply of 26.8 ML target

• LPG: 3,830 tons supply of 5,100 tons target

ECONOMIC – Electricity



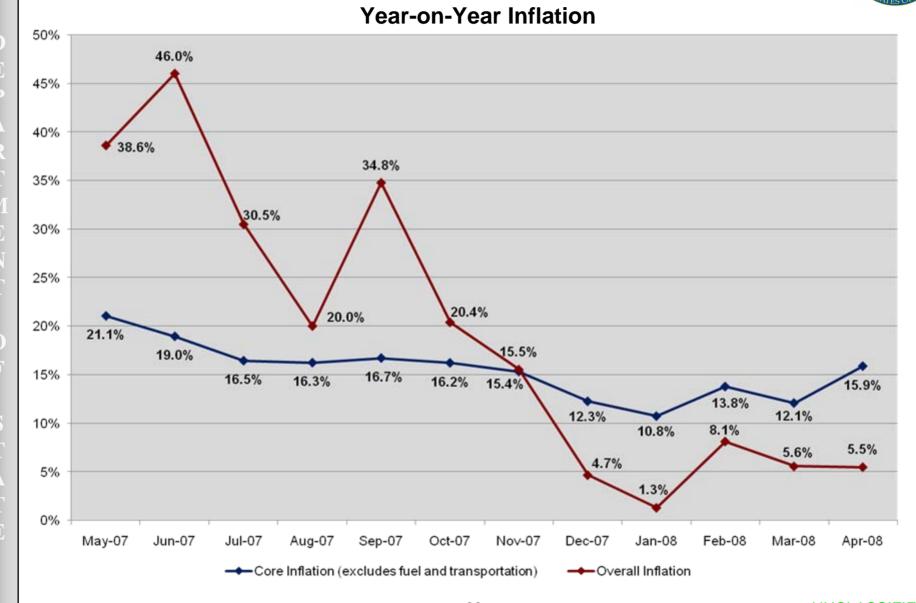
Daily Electricity Supplied and Estimated Demand in Iraq Since January 2004



- Daily electricity demand May 14-20 was 9% above the same period last year. Daily supply from the grid was 22% above the year-earlier period and met 50% of demand, compared with 44% for the year-earlier period.
- For May 12-18, average hours of power from the grid after meeting demand from essential services were Baghdad: 6.9 and national 9.7. Year-ago levels were Baghdad 4.0 and national 9.7.

ECONOMIC – Economic Indicators





ECONOMIC – Economic Indicators

Economic Indicator	This Week	Last Week	Last Month	Last Year
Iraqi Commercial Bond Sales				
Price (USD) Yield	\$70.78 9.00%	\$70.40 9.05%	\$70.44 9.04%	\$62.82 10.16%
Central Bank's USD Currency Auction				
USD Sold NID Exchange Rate	\$88,844,000 \$1,200	\$114,186,000 \$1,201	\$100,056,190 \$1,204	\$66,957,492 \$1,254.00
Total Employed by USG Programs				
	132,169	134,900	117,699	N/A

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ECONOMIC - Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund (IRRF) 1 and 2

Sector\Status			С	ommitte	ed	Obligated		Disbursed			
(Millions of USD)	Allocated	Un- allocated	Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change
Security and Law	\$4,967	\$11	\$4,946	\$4,946	\$0	\$4,946	\$4,946	\$0	\$4,864	\$4,864	\$0
Justice and Civil Society	\$2,304	\$15	\$2,262	\$2,262	\$0	\$2,257	\$2,257	\$0	\$2,171	\$2,171	\$0
Electricity Sector	\$4,188	\$25	\$4,066	\$4,069	\$3	\$4,055	\$4,055	\$0	\$3,829	\$3,837	\$8
Oil Infrastructure	\$1,718	\$7	\$1,601	\$1,601	\$0	\$1,597	\$1,597	\$0	\$1,576	\$1,576	\$0
Water and Sanitation	\$2,062	\$23	\$1,972	\$1,978	\$7	\$1,950	\$1,947	-\$3	\$1,807	\$1,809	\$2
Transportation and Comm	\$462	\$2	\$458	\$458	\$0	\$458	\$458	\$0	\$412	\$412	\$0
Roads, Bridges and Const\	\$324	\$4	\$317	\$317	\$0	\$317	\$317	\$0	\$251	\$252	\$0
Health Care	\$810	\$9	\$787	\$787	\$0	\$777	\$777	\$0	\$732	\$733	\$1
Private Sector Development	\$838	\$1	\$820	\$820	\$0	\$820	\$820	\$0	\$814	\$814	\$0
Edu Refugees, Human Rights	\$460	\$0	\$431	\$431	\$0	\$431	\$431	\$0	\$407	\$407	\$0
Admin Expense (USAID,DoS)	\$220	\$0	\$218	\$218	\$0	\$218	\$218	\$0	\$208	\$208	\$0
Total IRRF II	\$18,352	\$97	\$17,877	\$17,887	\$10	\$17,824	\$17,821	-\$3	\$17,070	\$17,081	\$11
IRRF II Non-Construction	-	-	\$7,956	\$7,959	\$3	\$7,945	\$7,945	\$0	\$7,724	\$7,725	\$1
IRRF II Construction	-	-	\$9,402	\$9,408	\$7	\$9,360	\$9,357	-\$3	\$8,829	\$8,839	\$10
IRRF II Overhead	-	-	\$520	\$520	\$0	\$520	\$520	\$0	\$517	\$517	\$0
Total IRRF I	\$2,475	\$0	\$2,291	\$2,291	\$0	\$2,232	\$2,232	\$0	\$2,139	\$2,139	\$0
Grand Total IRRF I & II	\$20,827	\$97	\$20,168	\$20,178	\$10	\$20,056	\$20,053	-\$3	\$19,209	\$19,220	\$11
											

DIPLOMATIC – **Political Engagement**



Kurdish Prime Minister Sees Progress in Iraq:

• In a May 20 letter published in the Wall Street Journal, the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), Nechirvan Barzani, lauded the progress he sees occurring in Iraq. His letter highlighted the increasingly good relations the KRG has with the central government of Iraq, progress toward an oil law, the handling of disputes over territory, and relations with Iraq's neighbors (including Turkey). He stated: "We Kurds are committed to a federal, democratic Iraq at peace within its borders and with its neighbors." Barzani ended by expressing Kurdish appreciation for US efforts in Iraq.

<u>Iranian Embassy Staff Wounded in Attack</u>:

Four members of the Iranian embassy staff and their Iraqi driver were wounded during a
May 15 attack on their convoy in Baghdad. The staff comprised two diplomats and two
guards. Iraqi police are investigating. Iranian spokesman Manojer Taslimi said the
incident would not change relations with Iraq. Iranian foreign ministry spokesman
Mohammad Ali Hosseini added: "The assassination attempt against four Iranian embassy
staff in Baghdad is a criminal action."

Turkey Plans to Open Consulate General in Basrah:

• In a May 18 interview, Turkish special envoy to Iraq, Murat Ozcelik, is reported to have said that Turkey was taking steps to open a Consulate General in Basrah soon. He added that during a recent visit to Iraq, he met Iraqi officials, UNAMI head Staffan de Mistura, and the American and British ambassadors. Issues discussed included security, Turkish-Iraqi relations, the PKK, and efforts to open the Consulate General.

DIPLOMATIC – Coalition Contributors



25 Countries with forces in Iraq (including US)

Albania	Czech Republic	Kazakhstan	Poland
Armenia	Denmark	Korea	Romania
Australia	El Salvador	Latvia	Singapore
Azerbaijan	Estonia	Lithuania	Tonga
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Georgia	Macedonia	Ukraine
Bulgaria	Japan	Mongolia	United Kingdom

TOTAL ~ 9,907 Forces

31 Countries and NATO*

(including the US)

Support Iraqi Stability Operations

*31 includes the US, the 25 countries listed above, and six non-MNF-I countries: Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Turkey Note: Fiji and New Zealand, participating as a part of the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI), are not included.

CONTACT INFORMATION

• This brief draws from multiple sources. References are cited on the following pages.

Please forward all questions and/or comments to:

NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov

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Department of State, NEA/I Economic/Assistance Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov

Slide 20:

Department of State, NEA/I Economic/Assistance Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov

Slide 21:

Department of State, NEA/I Economic/Assistance Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov

Slide 22:

Department of State, NEA/I Economic/Assistance Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov

The chart shows average daily power production in megawatt hours (MWh). 120,000 MWh goal equates to 20 hours at 6000 MW average supplied load or 24 hours at 5000 MW average supply load.

Slide 23:

Department of State, NEA/I Economic/Assistance Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov

Slide 24:

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